



CFL or LED - Which is the **Best Choice for You?**

The debate over whether to use compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) versus light emitting diodes (LEDs) has become “heated” over the past several years – a conversation people aren’t taking “lightly.” With lighting accounting for up to 20 percent of your home’s energy bill, the real question is what are the differences between the two technologies and which is the best choice?

LED lamps are gaining momentum as the light of the future as they are extremely durable, last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent lighting, produce the least amount of heat of any light source, turn on instantly and contain no mercury.

When it comes to purchasing them, LEDs can be a bit costly as they run at least \$20 per bulb. Although it may be costly to retrofit your entire home with LEDs at the moment, there are other ways to incorporate LED technologies, including holiday lights, flashlights and in locations where lights are left on for long periods of time.

The bottom line, if you can afford LEDs, they are a great choice. CFL lamps, however, are also an excellent choice in the interim until the prices of LED lamps come down. Either way, if every American home replaced just one light with an ENERGY STAR® rated bulb (CFL or LED), nationally we would save enough electricity to light 3 million homes for a year, save about \$600 million in annual energy costs and prevent about 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions every year– equivalent to taking 800,000 cars off the road. Now the decision on which bulb to choose – well, that’s up to you.

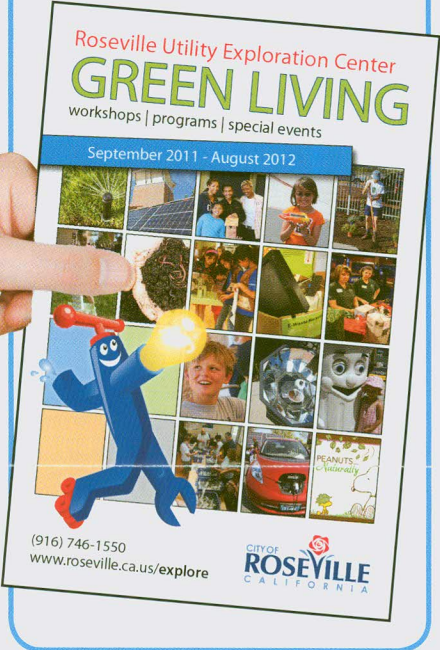
Both CFL and LED lights last longer and use less energy than incandescent light lamps, however, the truth is – there is no perfect light bulb. When it comes to newer lighting technologies, there are benefits and drawbacks to both CFLs and LEDs.

On the “bright” side ENERGY STAR® rated CFL light bulbs produce very little heat, last up to ten times longer than incandescent and are fairly inexpensive at approximately \$3 per bulb. They also come in really cool shapes – most commonly referred to by kids as the pig’s tail or curlicue. Some of the drawbacks, however, include a short warm up period and a minimal amount of mercury. They are considered household hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

FREE Guide is Ticket to **Green Living**

It’s finally here, and just in time for fall. The Utility Exploration Center’s Green Living Guide is your ticket to a variety of energy, money and time saving workshops, environmental lectures, school programs, special events (like the Celebrate the Earth Festival and All Things Solar Day), kid’s summer camps, unique traveling exhibits and much, much more.

Located at 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., next to the Riley Library in Mahany Park, the Center has welcomed more than 100,000 visitors in the past three years. Now it’s your turn! Get your FREE copy of the guide at any City of Roseville public counter or by downloading it from their website, [www.roseville.ca.us/explore](http://www.roseville.ca.us/explore).



Roseville Electric’s Actual Purchases for Fuel Mixes, 2010		
POWER CONTENT LABEL		
ENERGY RESOURCES	Roseville System Average	2009 CA Total System Power** (for comparison)
Eligible Renewable	17%	12%
—Biomass & Waste	9%	2%
—Geothermal	5%	5%
—Eligible Hydro	0%	2%
—Solar	0%	<1%
—Wind	3%	3%
Coal	0%	8%
Large Hydroelectric	15%	9%
Natural Gas	41%	42%
Nuclear	0%	13%
Generic Power (Unspecified Purchases)	26%	16%
Other	0%	0%
TOTAL	100%	100%
74% of Roseville System Average is specifically purchased from individual suppliers.		
**Percentages are estimated annually by the California Energy Commission based on electricity sold to California consumers during the previous year.		
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2090 HILLTOP CIRCLE, ROSEVILLE, CA 95747-9704  
916 797.6937 | 916 774.5220 TDD  
916 774.5428 24-HR OUTAGE HOTLINE

FIND US ON THE WEB: [WWW.ROSEVILLE.CA.US/ELECTRIC](http://WWW.ROSEVILLE.CA.US/ELECTRIC)



**Have a Question?**

If you have an energy-related question or want to know about an energy-efficiency technology or product, let us know. You can reach us by e-mailing [rosevilleelectric@roseville.ca.us](mailto:rosevilleelectric@roseville.ca.us) or by calling 79-POWER (797-6937).